

## DEATH PENALTY APPEALS—HABEAS CORPUS LIMITATIONS

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held a hearing on the Impact of Federal Habeas Corpus Limitations on Death Penalty Appeals. Testimony was heard from Michael E. O'Hare, Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney, Civil Litigation Bureau, Office of the Chief State's Attorney, State of Connecticut; Gerald Kogan, Chief Justice (ret.), Supreme Court, State of Florida; and public witnesses.

## TAX EXTENDERS ACT OF 2009

*Committee on Rules:* Granted, by a non-record vote, a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate on H.R. 4213, the Tax Extenders Act of 2009, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the bill. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard by Representatives Neal, Brady (TX), and Cao.

## THE WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

*Committee on Rules:* Granted, by a non-record vote, a rule. The rule provides three hours of general debate on H.R. 4173, the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009, with two hours to be equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services, 30 minutes to be equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture, and 30 minutes to be equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI.

The rule provides that the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The rule provides that the Committee of the Whole shall rise without motion after general debate and that no further consideration of the bill shall occur except pursuant to a subsequent order of the House. The rule also provides that the Chair of the Committee of the Whole may entertain a motion that the Committee rise only if offered by the chair of the Committee on Financial Services or his designee. Testimony was heard by

Chairman Frank (MA), and Representatives Rush, and Bachus.

## PUBLIC TRANSIT SAFETY

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing on Public Transit Safety: Examining the Federal Role. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Transportation: Ray LaHood, Secretary; and Peter Rogoff, Administrator, Federal Transit Administration; Katherine A. Siggerud, Managing Director, Physical Infrastructure, GAO; Robert J. Chipkevich, Director, Office of Railroad, Pipeline, and Hazardous Materials Investigations, National Transportation Safety Board; Richard W. Clark, Director, Consumer Protection and Safety Division, Public Utilities Commission, State of California; and a public witness.

## BRIEFING—NSA UPDATE

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Met in executive session to receive a briefing on NSA Update. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

## Joint Meetings

### DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Conferees agreed to file a conference report on the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 3288, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010.

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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

### Senate

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Subcommittee on Economic Policy, to hold hearings to examine creating jobs in the recession, 2 p.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* to hold hearings to examine research parks and job creation, focusing on innovation through cooperation, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Finance:* Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness, to hold hearings to examine exports' place on the path of economic recovery, 2:30 p.m., SD-215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* to hold hearings to examine the new Afghanistan strategy, focusing on the view from the ground, 10 a.m., SD-419.